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Consideration of reports on the work of the Standing Committee

Report of the 60th meeting of the Standing Committee (1-3 July 2014)

Report of the Secretariat

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I. Introduction

1. The Chairperson of the Executive Committee, His Excellency Ambassador CHOI Seok-young (Republic of Korea), opened the meeting and extended a special welcome to the seven new members of the Executive Committee – Afghanistan, Belarus, Czech Republic, Latvia, Peru, Senegal and Slovakia – who were elected by the United Nations Economic and Social Council during its Coordination and Management Meeting on 23 April 2014. With their election, membership stands at 94 member States. The Chairperson further welcomed Paraguay as a new observer.

2. Before moving to the adoption of the agenda, the Chairperson provided an oral report on his recent field mission to Lebanon and Jordan. He recalled that both countries reported that their capacity for hosting Syrian refugees had reached its limit, and expressed appreciation for their hospitality as well as frustration that a political solution remained elusive. He welcomed the use of innovative projects, such as the cash allowance scheme, which enabled UNHCR to reach vulnerable refugees regardless of location, and the renovation of local housing. The Chairperson underscored the imperative of appropriate linkages between humanitarian assistance and development aid, especially as a means to strengthen and reinforce the resilience of host communities. He appealed for strong financial support of the host countries, noting that the low funding of the Syria Regional Response Plan had already forced humanitarian actors to re-prioritize and cut important protection and assistance activities.

II. Adoption of the agenda

3. Taking note of a change in the order of presentation of item 2(b), the Committee adopted the agenda for the meeting (EC/65/SC/CRP.9/Rev.1).

III. International protection

A. Note on international protection

4. The Director of the Division of International Protection presented the *Note on international protection* (EC/65/SC/CRP.10). He described the increasingly complex nature of conflict today and highlighted the challenges in providing protection in this environment. The Director outlined a number of key areas and initiatives currently driving UNHCR's work such as: ensuring protection in the context of mixed migration, including maritime movements; addressing statelessness; implementing the age, gender and diversity approach; and achieving durable solutions. Considerable progress had been made with respect to the age, gender and diversity approach (AGD) but challenges remained, particularly in the prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), child protection and gender equality.

5. Regarding mixed migration, the Director expressed concern over the increasing use of detention for asylum-seekers and refugees, alongside economic migrants. He noted that UNHCR would be launching later in the week the new *Global Strategy – Beyond Detention*, which aimed to end detention over the next five years and promote alternatives to this harmful practice. With respect statelessness, the Director noted that this year was the 60th anniversary of the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and that UNHCR was using the occasion to launch a campaign to end statelessness over the next ten years. He described a number of related initiatives underway, including the

holding of a statelessness treaty event later in the day, during which four countries were expected to deposit their instruments of accession to one or both of the statelessness conventions.

6. Thirty-six delegations took the floor in response, noting with concern the growing rate of displacement and the consequences of the international community's failure to prevent and seek solutions to conflict. Member States conveyed strong support for UNHCR, paying tribute to field staff in particular, and expressed solidarity with host countries and affected populations. UNHCR was commended for its leadership in coordinating responses to refugee emergencies and for its role in the framework of the inter-agency cluster approach. At the same time, UNHCR was urged to continue strengthening coordination at both the global and field levels. There was also a request for UNHCR to provide regular updates on the commitments it made to strengthen its engagement in situations of internal displacement during the High Commissioner's 2013 Dialogue on Protection Challenges, which focused on this theme.

7. Protection at sea emerged as an important issue during the discussion, with many countries expressing concern about recent maritime incidents, conveying their support for ongoing initiatives in this area, and welcoming the High Commissioner's selection of this theme for the 2014 Dialogue on Protection Challenges. With respect to mixed migration more broadly, regional efforts to address irregular migration were considered indispensable. It was vital to ensure cooperation with countries of transit and origin and undertake a comprehensive approach to tackle the root causes of irregular migration.

8. Member States spoke out strongly about the need to strengthen protection for refugee children, in particular for unaccompanied minors, and stressed the importance of providing universal access to education. UNHCR was urged to continue giving high priority to preventing and responding to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). In the context of age, gender and diversity programming, attention was also drawn to the protection needs of the disabled and the elderly, as well as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) individuals.

9. A number of States reported on their progress toward accession to the statelessness conventions and welcomed the High Commissioner's campaigns to end gender discrimination in nationality laws and to end statelessness within the next decade. The value of regional cooperation for both protection and solutions was stressed by many States; notably, the 30th anniversary of the Cartagena Declaration would provide a valuable opportunity to consider a new framework for responding to emerging protection challenges in Latin America. Several member States raised the issue of climate-induced displacement and urged UNHCR to redouble efforts to bring international protection to affected populations, in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration and supporters of the Nansen Initiative.

10. One delegation stated that it provided the necessary services to the Sahrawi refugees in the camps near Tindouf in cooperation with international and national partners pending their voluntary return in line with the United Nations' peace plan. Another delegation insisted on the fundamental nature of registration and reiterated its request for authorizing UNHCR to undertake a census and registration of these populations, in line with the recent United Nations Security Council resolution, pending their return.

11. The Director summarized the discussion, noting a number of recurring themes, including: (i) appreciation of the scope of forced displacement and magnitude of emergencies facing the office; (ii) solidarity with host countries and the need for increased responsibility-sharing; (iii) recognition of the international protection regime, particularly the principle of *non-refoulement*; (iv) support for protection as a central component of humanitarian action; (v) appreciation for UNHCR's efforts to eradicate statelessness; and (vi) emphasis on solutions. He took note of the suggestion made by several delegations for the Office to better identify protection failures and UNHCR's role in addressing them, and

promised that this would be discussed at the Executive Committee's annual session in October. He concluded by expressing appreciation for member States' support of UNHCR's work during this challenging time.

B. Resettlement

12. The Deputy Director (Pillar III) of the Division of International Protection presented the *Progress report on resettlement* (EC/65/SC/CRP.11), highlighting increased resettlement submissions and departures in 2013 as compared with 2012 (25 percent and 16 per cent, respectively). Noting that 27 States now had regular resettlement programmes, she expressed appreciation to those States that had expanded their quotas, as well as to those that had established humanitarian admission programmes for Syrians refugees. Yet a tremendous gap remained: nearly 1 million refugees globally were in need of resettlement, while only 80,000 regular resettlement places were available. Calling on States to be flexible in their resettlement criteria, she underscored the importance of resettlement partners closely engaging with host countries, particularly through core and contact groups and the new Solutions Alliance. UNHCR, for its part, was strengthening oversight and pursuing other efforts to ensure integrity in its processing, such as enhancing the functionality of the proGres database and using biometrics in registration.

13. Delegations welcomed the expansion in global resettlement capacity, including an unprecedented number of places pledged by European States in relation to the Syrian crisis. As resettlement was an important contribution to international responsibility-sharing, it was imperative for more States to start resettlement programmes and others to increase the overall number of resettlement places made available. The Office was commended for surpassing the ten per cent target for referrals of women and girls at risk and was encouraged to continue reinforcing integrity in resettlement processing, including through mainstreaming recently created resettlement posts in key locations. The Office's promotion of multi-year resettlement commitments was commended as enabling better forward planning by UNHCR and resettlement countries alike.

14. Delegations remarked upon UNHCR's enhanced efforts toward solutions-oriented planning, as demonstrated by the establishment of the Solutions Steering Group and the core and contact resettlement groups on specific refugee populations. Linking the distinct agenda items on resettlement and solutions, one delegation situated resettlement as a strategic protection tool to be used within comprehensive solutions strategies, complementing efforts at self-reliance and solutions-orientated planning for refugees in protracted situations.

15. The Deputy Director expressed appreciation for the continued support of State resettlement partners to reach ambitious resettlement targets. She noted the Office's intention to stabilize staffing in the most important locations, especially managerial functions critical for effective oversight. The Deputy Director further welcomed the support shown to the Solutions Steering Group, explaining that UNHCR is striving to make clearer linkages between the ongoing work on solutions and resettlement.

C. The Executive Committee conclusion

16. The Chairperson welcomed the delegate of the Permanent Mission of Mexico, who delivered an oral update on behalf of the Rapporteur concerning developments in the elaboration of an Executive Committee conclusion since the 59th meeting. From the eight proposals originally received, member States agreed in March to further consider the following themes: (i) education for persons of concern to UNHCR; (ii) cooperation and coordination of humanitarian action; and (iii) special skills development of refugees for sustainable return and reintegration. Subsequently, it became clear that the first two themes

did not have sufficient support to achieve consensus; therefore the only theme with the possibility of further development this year was special skills development. Informal consultations continued to take place, and the conclusion would be negotiated during the month of September, in order to be presented during the 65th plenary session. The negotiations were a State-led process and must be conducted in a manner that was transparent, balanced, and inclusive of all who wished to participate.

17. Delegations expressed appreciation for the Rapporteur's dedication and capable leadership, while noting with concern that the process had not yet achieved agreement on a theme. It was highlighted that both education and skills development had been frequently mentioned during the present meeting as important for protection and solutions, and that there was convergence among the member States on these topics. One delegation suggested that more fundamental, structural issues may need to be addressed in order to avoid similar situations in future years; in the meantime, a balanced approach based on common ground would be required to enable consensus. Noting that the conclusions are a practical protection tool intended to support host countries, countries of origin, UNHCR and other operational actors, another delegation suggested that the future selection of themes would be better informed by a careful review by UNHCR of operational gaps, which the Committee might consider. In closing, the Chairperson indicated that he would consider proposals in improve the process in the future.

IV. Programme/protection policy

A. Child protection including education

18. Before opening the discussion on the agenda item, the Chairperson introduced a short film commissioned by seven partner non-governmental organizations (NGOs), highlighting the importance of civil registration, particularly for child protection purposes, and the 2013 Executive Committee conclusion on this topic.

19. The Senior Protection Coordinator (Pillar II) of the Division of International Protection presented the paper on *Child protection including education* (EC/65/SC/CRP.13). She focused on the increasingly complex child protection challenges in urban areas and in situations of mixed migration, including addressing the dramatic rise in the number of unaccompanied and separated children. She highlighted the importance of reinforcing partnerships with States and local actors to ensure that refugee children are included in national child-protection and education systems.

20. States shared UNHCR's concern that over half of the global refugee population is under the age of 18 and noted the increasingly complex protection risks they face. States welcomed UNHCR's focus on national education and asylum systems. Delegates encouraged that efforts continue to ensure that all children are registered at birth and requested that UNHCR provide feedback on how the work of the Executive Committee, particularly the *Conclusion on civil registration*, is impacting its work on the ground.

21. Education was cited as one of the most effective and sustainable way to address protection risks, and several delegations called on States to open their national education programmes to all children, regardless of legal status. Host countries were praised for all they do to protect children and integrate them into their national education systems. One delegation encouraged UNHCR to conduct a study on the relationship between education in the context of humanitarian crises and the achievement of solutions for refugees.

22. The Senior Protection Coordinator expressed appreciation for the initiatives taken by many States to support the protection and education of refugee children and noted UNHCR's interest in supporting the replication of successful initiatives in other locations. Recognizing the importance of education in the humanitarian response, she noted the challenges that UNHCR faces in implementing child protection programmes, particularly in

relation to secondary education opportunities, which are vital in finding solutions. Noting that information about UNHCR's implementation of child protection, education and SGVB strategies is available in the year-end report, she encouraged States to provide feedback on implementation and to work with UNHCR on the evaluation of the three priority areas in 2016.

B. Age, gender and diversity

23. The Deputy Director (Pillar II) of the Division of International Protection updated the committee on the implementation of UNHCR's age, gender and diversity (AGD) policy (EC/65/SC/CRP.14). She explained that the AGD approach is integral to all aspects of UNHCR's work and a core aspect of its accountability to populations of concern. The organization's work to further integrate AGD into its planning and reporting systems was emphasised, and the incorporation of the new Accountability Report into UNHCR's central planning and reporting tool, Focus, was cited as a significant development.

24. States reaffirmed their appreciation of UNHCR's commitment to the AGD Policy and welcomed the positive developments in reporting on participatory assessments and organizational accountability. UNHCR was encouraged to continue this progress, particularly in regard to providing AGD disaggregated data in the accountability reports. Delegations also requested UNHCR to elaborate on how AGD data is analysed, whether AGD reporting is mandatory for all operations, and how UNHCR is sharing its insights in inter-agency fora.

25. Delegations commended UNHCR for the widespread use of participatory assessments in its operations. Several delegations requested further information on the steps taken by UNHCR to ensure a link between information acquired through participatory assessments and long-term operational planning. One delegation queried the use of participatory assessments in emergency response settings, noting that the insights gained from assessments should guide short-term planning as well. The Office was requested to more clearly articulate the practical constraints in implementing the AGD policy.

26. The Deputy Director thanked the delegations for their support and feedback. She clarified that AGD reporting is mandatory for all operations and the analysis of the data is conducted by technical units in the Division of International Protection. She also cited a number of ongoing inter-agency initiatives in which UNHCR is fully engaged. In reference to disaggregated data, she noted that more than 50 indicators in Focus are AGD-sensitive, of which ten are gender-sensitive. The current challenge is that, while disaggregated data is available from many operations, it is not provided in the same format and often only conveyed through narrative text. She reemphasised the strong support for participatory assessments among UNHCR staff and noted that further capacity-building is required to enable them to better translate findings and results into programmatic action.

27. The Director of Division of International Protection added his appreciation for the support of the Committee members. He stressed the importance that the Senior Management Committee gives to ensuring that an AGD lens is applied to all UNHCR activities. By way of example, he noted that the performance assessments of senior managers require the articulation of at least one performance objective relating to the implementation of the AGD Policy. He welcomed the comments regarding the use of participatory assessments in planning, while noting the challenges of this poses in emergency response settings. Finally, the Director called for States to share information on their national policies and practices that address AGD concerns and suggested that such information be communicated at the annual session of the Executive Committee in October.

C. 2013 Global Strategic Priorities

28. The Director of the Division of Programme Support and Management introduced the Progress report on the 2013 Global Strategic Priorities (EC/65/SC/CRP.12), which reflected the results achieved against the engagements and targets set for 2013. The Global Strategic Priorities (GSPs) identified key areas where UNHCR concentrated its efforts to strengthen protection, improve the quality of life and enable solutions for refugees and other people of concern. Now in the fifth year of implementing the GSPs, UNHCR had made important progress using them as a tool for both programme planning and budgeting, as well as results-based management. After providing highlights of key achievements and notable challenges reflected in the data, the Director advised that more detailed information, including examples, was provided in UNHCR's Global Report 2013.

29. Delegations reiterated their continuing support for the use of the GSPs, which provided a measurable basis for coherent prioritization and direction in the organization. They expressed appreciation for the results reflected in the paper, and the fact that progress had been achieved toward most of the operational GSPs, particularly at a time when UNHCR had been confronted with emergencies of an unprecedented scale. Progress in responding to SGBV was notable and served as testament to the addition of regional SGBV advisors and the fact that multi-sector strategies had become the norm in most operations. The addition of an indicator for the prevention of SGBV in the 2014-2015 biennium would provide valuable information in this area of action. Growth in the primary school enrolment of refugee children was also lauded.

30. At the same time, the results were disappointing in some areas, including poor health and nutritional status in sudden influx emergencies; low rates of participation in programmes for out-of-school youth; low numbers of refugees repatriating; and the proportionately low number of operations achieving the targeted increase in the systematic issuance of birth certificates for newborns. Noting that UNHCR continued to make refinements in its use of and reporting against the GSPs, delegations made several observations and requests for the future. Noting its concern about protection in emergencies, one delegation requested differentiated reporting in emergency situations. Another noted that many indicators are vague and difficult to quantify, which presents problems for using them in advocacy with parliaments and the public. Delegations also requested that the Office provide more information and analysis in the following areas: (i) the connection between the GSPs and the allocation of resources; (ii) key challenges where targets were not achieved; and (iii) what measures were taken in such cases.

31. In response, the Director acknowledged some of the challenges in reporting on the data, particularly the fact that some of its richness was lost in its aggregation. While this year's Global Report provided more information, he appreciated the opportunity for further dialogue with member States on how the reporting might be strengthened. He agreed that the numbers on voluntary repatriation were disappointing, particularly when one considered that the numbers included spontaneous returns from host countries enmeshed in conflict and violence. Yet the low numbers had also prompted additional efforts, ranging from pursuit of comprehensive regional solutions strategies to enhanced livelihoods programming. In this way, close monitoring of the GSPs does inform revised strategies and planning.

V. Regional activities and global programmes

A. Solutions

32. Elaborating on the *Update on solutions* (EC/65/SC/CRP.15), the Deputy High Commissioner observed that, at a time when emergencies filled the headlines, the question of solutions for people of concern remained a huge challenge for the Office. The stark reality was that more than one-half of UNHCR's budget went not to emergencies but rather to long-term care and maintenance; that UNHCR was working in more than 20 contexts that were considered "protracted refugee situations"; and that for far too many refugees, displacement endured for generations. Against this backdrop, he provided an overview of the Office's renewed efforts toward solutions.

33. Internally, the Office had established a Solutions Steering Group (SSG) to serve as an impetus for strategic initiatives for solutions through the provision of financial and technical support. UNHCR recognized that it needed to initiate work toward solutions much earlier and that solutions strategies must include the elements of self-reliance and of support to host communities. The availability of US$ 20 million "Seeds for Solutions" funding triggered more than 40 applications from the field and would satisfy a critical need for multi-year funding for those projects that succeeded in demonstrating measureable progress. In the realm of external partnerships, UNHCR had been instrumental in the recent establishment of the Solutions Alliance, a group of interested donor countries, host countries, NGOs, UN organizations and the World Bank. The Alliance aimed to promote new approaches to addressing protracted situations and already included working groups on Somalia and Zambia, as well as thematic groups on research and private sector engagement.

34. In the discussion, delegations expressed support for what was characterized as a "cultural shift" away from care and maintenance in favor of self-reliance and solutions-oriented planning, as well as UNHCR's renewed institutional focus on solutions. Several delegations recalled that advancing solutions for refugees was the core mandate of UNHCR and urged the Office to further enhance its efforts in this area, particularly voluntary return. The Copenhagen Roundtable in April 2014 and subsequent establishment of the Solutions Alliance were highlighted as positive initiatives. UNHCR was asked to provide more information about the activities and achievements of the SSG, as well as how the SSG and the Solutions Alliance cooperated. Several delegations emphasized that field offices must now be guided and incentivized to pursue these new approaches; they asked how this would be done, and whether there was a deadline for integrating solutions strategies into country operations planning.

35. One delegation updated on its recently launched local integration strategic framework, which aims to locally integrate former refugees through priority socio-economic projects, including support for infrastructure, schools, clinics and livelihoods for both refugees and host communities. Several delegations expressed their support for these efforts.

36. Delegations emphasized several factors that UNHCR should consider in is approach to solutions, including (i) the value of regional approaches, involving both countries of origin and host countries; (ii) the imperative of development and humanitarian actors being jointly involved in solutions strategies, working in tandem rather than succession; (iii) the criticality of consultation with host countries in the development and implementation of solutions strategies; (iv) the need for solutions funding to be part of core operating budgets, with continuity; and (v) the importance of multi-year planning in partnership. A number of delegations welcomed specific efforts in support of self-reliance, including the new

livelihoods strategy. Some additionally noted that return remained the preferred solution; promotion of self-reliance should therefore be considered in the context of sustainable return, rather than local integration.

37. The Deputy High Commissioner thanked all delegations for their active support and interest. He observed that this was the first time the Standing Committee had received a separate item devoted to solution and welcomed delegations' request that the item be continued on next years' agenda. In response to comments, he noted that initiatives to build self-reliance were important to facilitate any of the three durable solutions: for example, refugees who had been in camps for years without active employment needed relevant skills that would enable their reintegration upon returning home. Examples provided by delegations of their continuing support for solutions – including on-going local integration and peace talks – highlighted the complexity and uniqueness of each situation, and the need for appropriate political, economic, social and technical support to be provided in a staged and comprehensive way. In all cases, however, the achievement of durable solutions required the continuous active participation and consultation of host countries.

B. Public health and HIV/AIDS

38. The Deputy Director of the Division of Programme Support and Management presented the *Update on public health and HIV/AIDS* (EC/65/SC/CRP.16). He addressed a number of areas of UNHCR's work in public health, including the essential health needs of refugees in emergencies; prevention and control of non-communicable diseases; comprehensive reproductive, maternal and new-born healthcare services; HIV prevention, treatment and care; and inter-agency collaborative processes related to HIV/AIDS.

39. States expressed their appreciation for the comprehensive presentation on health in both emergencies and protracted situations and complimented UNHCR on its new *Global Strategy for Public Health*. Particular mention was made of UNHCR's efforts to support the mental health and psychosocial well-being of beneficiaries and staff. The Office was encouraged to strengthen its partnerships with development agencies, non-governmental organizations and local actors on a range of public health and HIV/AIDS related issues, and host governments were urged to include refugees in national health programmes. UNHCR was asked to provide further details on its integrated approaches to healthcare and how it is engaging with youth in refugee communities. The absence of discussions on SGVB, condom distribution, and sexuality education in the conference room paper was queried.

40. In response, the Deputy Director reiterated the important contribution of host governments and stressed the importance of partnership to ensure equity in access to healthcare. He assured the Committee that SGVB prevention, condom distribution and informal engagement with youth groups were essential elements of UNHCR's public health strategy, and noted that sexuality education is dependent on the curriculum of the national education system. The Director of the Division of Programme Support and Management spoke to the importance of integrated approaches to ensure access to services and continuity of care, particularly for refugees who leave camp settings or those who reside in urban areas. He also commented on the use of health insurance as an increasingly successful initiative, with the best examples coming out of developing countries.

VI. Programme budgets and funding

41. Introducing the agenda item, the Deputy High Commissioner underscored the unique nature of UNHCR's budget, which must be constantly recalibrated in response to ever-changing humanitarian emergencies worldwide. He emphasised that the Syria crisis had not stabilized, and one million more refugees were expected to flee the country by

year-end. He called on members States to enhance their support to the growing numbers of forcibly displaced people who depended upon on the international community for life-saving protection and assistance.

A. Budgets and funding in 2013 and 2014

42. The *Update on budgets and funding in 2014 and reporting on 2013* (EC/SC/65/CRP.17 & Corr.1) was presented jointly by the Controller and Director of the Division of Financial and Administrative Management, and the Director of the Division of External Relations. The update included a detailed explanation of current financial needs and supplementary budgets for emergency interventions.

43. Delegations recognized the enormous challenges UNHCR faced in addressing the needs of growing populations of concern, and a number made statements in support of UNHCR's global needs assessment (GNA)-based budget. Many States expressed concern over the widening funding gap and its impact on specific situations or populations over time. The Office was asked for additional information on unmet needs, particularly the implications of the gap and UNHCR's strategy to address it. It was also requested to explain its process and criteria for prioritization.

44. States expressed appreciation for UNHCR's efforts to expand the donor base, particularly in the private sector. A number of States encouraged donors to provide un-earmarked funding, permitting greater flexibility and efficiency in the Office's prioritization. While some delegations expressed appreciation for reductions in the share of expenditures attributable to headquarters (6.5 per cent in 2013), several expressed concern about the Office's ability to maintain effective support and guidance, including monitoring and oversight functions.

45. The Controller thanked members for their support of the GNA and stressed that it remains the most appropriate methodology for UNHCR, given that UNHCR is dealing with unpredictable emergencies and saving lives. The Controller recalled UNHCR's commitment in 2012 to report on the funding gap by programme in the Global Report, and noted that additional information was provided in this year's Report. This remains a priority, and the reporting will continue to improve each year based upon the valuable feedback provided by member States and other stakeholders.

46. The Controller explained that UNHCR's budget planning must accommodate continuously evolving needs and emergencies. Responding to a request that members be informed of supplementary budgets as they arise, she referred to the financial rules, which grant the necessary flexibility for the High Commissioner to establish supplementary budgets for emergencies, with such adjustments to be reported to the subsequent meeting of the Standing Committee. She noted that UNHCR's implementation rate was among the highest in the UN system, consistently above 90 per cent in recent years. She also clarified that headquarters expenditure, while reduced proportionately to overall expenditure, had increased in absolute terms, thus ensuring effective support to field operations.

47. The Director of the Division of External Relations thanked the member States for their support in a time of unprecedented needs. He cited six ways in which the organization is working to address the worsening funding gap: (i) prioritization; (ii) engaging development actors, particularly in middle income countries; (iii) cost-saving measures; (iv) innovation; (v) broadening the donor base; and (vi) inter-agency collaboration to strengthen efficiency and capacity.

48. Concluding its discussion, the Committee adopted a decision on budgets and funding for 2013 and 2014 (see Annex).

B. Global Report on activities in 2013

49. The Director of the Division of External Relations presented the *Global Report 2013*. He noted that the report demonstrates, through narrative, images, charts and figures, the impact of UNHCR's humanitarian response. It also provides an opportunity to recognize UNHCR's partners, who contribute to supporting over 43 million people worldwide. The publication was already available in English and would be made available in French later in the summer.

50. Delegations congratulated the Office for the detailed report and welcomed the efforts made to incorporate the Committee's feedback from previous years. Particular appreciation was given for the improved format and visualisation of information; added detail about cross-cutting issues; continuing efforts to explain the factors that cause shortfalls in delivery; and reporting on the issue of statelessness.

51. The Director thanked delegations for their support and encouragement. He invited the Committee to continue the dialogue on improving the usefulness of the report. In response to a request for an independent evaluation of the impact of the Office's work, the Deputy High Commissioner advised that, pursuant to a request by the UN Committee for Programme and Coordination, OIOS would soon conduct an evaluation of UNHCR's programming.

VII. Coordination

52. The Acting Head of the Inter-Agency Coordination Service briefed the Committee on UNHCR's upcoming oral update during the July Coordination and Management Meeting of the UN Economic and Social Council. He noted that the update would address four partnership-related themes: (i) responding to emergencies; (ii) transition efforts, protracted situations and durable solutions; (iii) UNHCR's implementation of the Transformative Agenda; and (iv) cooperation with non-governmental organizations. Consistent with the practice of past years, there was no debate on this sub-item, although delegations were invited to submit comments to the Secretariat.

VIII. Governance

53. The Chairperson explained that the High Commissioner's statement at the forthcoming 65rd plenary session of the Executive Committee would form the basis for the session's General Debate. Noting that an outline of the statement's key elements would be shared with delegations in advance, he invited States to propose topics for the High Commissioner's statement. Themes proposed for inclusion were as follows: redoubled efforts and comprehensive approaches to solutions; the corporate commitment to the protection of women and children; inter-agency coordination; and UNHCR's continuing role in humanitarian reform, including its experience with implementation of the Refugee Coordination Model.

IX. Any other business

54. The Deputy High Commissioner advised the Committee that following the success of the *High Level Segment on Solidarity and Burden-Sharing with Countries Hosting Syrian Refugees* held during the 64th plenary session of the Executive Committee, the High Commissioner had proposed that a high level segment be convened this year on crises in

Africa. At to the precise subject, the Office was in the process of discussions with the African Group and hoped to share the theme shortly. To enable a successful session, it would be important to focus on a clear set of objectives with tangible outcomes.

55. Also in relation to the upcoming plenary session of the Executive Committee, the Secretary noted that the High Commissioner's welcoming reception, co-hosted with the Chairman of the Executive Committee, would again precede the Nansen Refugee Award ceremony this year. Both events would therefore take place on the evening of 29 September 2014, at the *Bâtiment des Forces Motrices* in Geneva. Invitations would follow during the course of the summer.

56. The Chairperson recalled the Committee's decision, at its last meeting, to adopt is reports this year by electronic circulation. He advised that the Secretariat would circulate the draft report of the 60th meeting by 18 July and asked that any objections or clarifications be provided within two weeks so that they could be incorporated, following which the report would be deemed adopted.

Annex

Decision on budgets and funding for 2013 and 2014

The Standing Committee,

Recalling the Executive Committee's decision on administrative, financial and programme matters at its sixty-fourth session (A/AC.96/1132, para. 15), as well as its discussions under the programme budgets and funding agenda item at the fifty-ninth meeting of the Standing Committee in March 2014,

Reaffirming the importance of international burden and responsibility-sharing in reducing the burden on countries hosting refugees, especially developing ones,

1. *Takes note* of the final 2013 total budget of US$ 5,335.4 million, after the Executive Committee had approved programmes and budgets under UNHCR's revised 2012-2013 Biennial Programme Budget for $3,924.2 million for 2013, plus seven supplementary budgets amounting to $1,413.7 million for programmes benefiting refugees and internally displaced persons that had been established in the course of 2013, less a reduction of $ 2.5 million in the requirements for the Mali situation;

2. *Recalls* that the Executive Committee, at its sixty-fourth session, approved programmes and budgets for Regional Programmes, Global Programmes and Headquarters under UNHCR's 2014-2015 Biennial Programme Budget amounting to $5,307.8 million for 2014;

3. *Notes* that the 2014 supplementary budgets currently amount to $840.1 million for programmes benefiting refugees and internally displaced persons;

4. *Takes note* of the increase in UNHCR's 2014 annual budget to a current total of $6,147.9 million;

5. *Recognizes* that emergencies and unforeseen activities unfolding in 2014 may result in the need for additional or expanded supplementary budgets, and that additional resources, over and above those for existing budgets, would be needed to meet such needs; and

6. *Urges* Member States to continue to respond generously, in a spirit of solidarity and in a timely manner, to the High Commissioner's appeal for resources to meet in full the 2014 annual budget.